

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 18, 2010

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane, Chair presided.

Members of Committee present: Alderman-at-Large Mark S. Cookson, Vice Chair (7:07 p.m.)
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard P. Flynn
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderman Jeffrey T. Cox

Members not in Attendance: Alderman Diane Sheehan

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Barbara Pressly
Officer Joseph Brown, Nashua Police Dept.

Chairman Deane

I know Alderman Sheehan is at the Regional Planning Commission open house. I spoke with her yesterday. I don't know if she is going to be able to make it back over here. I haven't heard from Alderman Cookson yet.

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Rose Evans, Accounting/Compliance Manager
Re: Notice of the Acceptance and Appropriation of Unanticipated Funds

Chairman Deane

The memo reads "In accordance with NRO 5-132(c), the City accepted unanticipated funds of less than \$25,000 from the following sources:" They have to be reported. There was New Hampshire State Library Dunstable Town records Preservation – states the purpose in the memo for \$2,955, New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency Nashua Pedestrian Enforcement Patrols – \$5,192, New Hampshire Highway Safety Agency Red Light Running - \$5,192, Bureau of Justice Assistance Training & Technology Improvement Grant - \$8,000, Bureau of Justice Assistance Bulletproof Vest Program - \$4,494, and NH Department of Health & Human Services and Town Contribution Mediation Program Services - \$14,441.

Let the record reflect Alderman Cookson has joined us.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Deane

Are there any questions? We received this communication with our full board agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-10-04

Endorsers: Mayor Donnalee Lozeau
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Michael J. Tabacsko
Alderman Richard LaRose
Alderman Arthur T. Craffey, Jr.
Alderman Kathy Vitale
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Jeffrey T. Cox
Alderman Diane Sheehan
Alderman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$63,125 OBTAINED FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT 331-6284 “2010 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN GRANT PROGRAM” AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$40,294 FROM ACCOUNT 591-86007 “CONTINGENCY – POLICE GRANTS” INTO SAID SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Deane

Does anyone have any questions pertaining to this? I believe Alderman Wilshire's Human Affairs Committee recommended final passage last week. Are there any questions?

Alderman Flynn

I wondered as long as Officer Brown is here if he could tell us a little bit more about what specifically in the program this money goes towards.

Joseph Brown

Good evening. Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak before your group. My name is Officer Joseph Brown. I am a police officer for the City of Nashua where I have been employed for about 21 years. I am currently assigned to the Services Bureau where I work as the Grants Manager.

I am here tonight to discuss this particular resolution as it pertains to 2010 Violence Against Women Grant also known as the STOP (services/training/officers/prosecutors) Grant. The STOP The STOP Grant is a seed grant. We have had this grant since 1996. It covers the salary of one investigator, which is a police officer and a civilian who is our civilian advocate.

We have a supervisor in the domestic violence unit, 3 investigators who are all police officers, and the civilian advocate. When a domestic violence related report comes in, the uniform patrol division generally will handle that call. What happens though, with the domestic violence unit, it allows us the flexibility and the ability to have each particular domestic violence report reviewed. It is reviewed by the civilian advocate.

She looks at it, she will make recommendations, she will ensure that the needs of the family and/or the victim are being met, and can also work as a liaison to different agencies within the city whether it is probation, patrol, or the courts, and she can take and help walk say a first time domestic violence victim through the process so that she has the ability to have that support mechanism in place that can help her through the tough times whether it is she needs some place to stay where the suspect cannot find them or whether it is just the basic confidence of having somebody who knows how the system works that can explain to her how the courts work and how she has a voice in the resolution of the problem and how to get her voice heard.

Each investigator handles approximately 628 cases. In this particular grant where we are paying for the advocate and an investigator, that investigator handles 638 cases. What that means is each case that the uniform patrol division is called to respond to, they are the first responders, if there is any follow-up, the officers that are assigned to the cases for the domestic violence cases again review the reports and ensure that all of the needs are met of that family. As I said earlier, the officers will make sure all of the appropriate charges have been filed, and if for some reason a charge is missed, they can bring the charge forward and better meet the needs of that particular victim.

It is an excellent program. The advocate right now is currently speaking to about 75 people per week. Keep in mind when she is at court 4-5 days a week, she is dealing with all of the victims, she is dealing with the courts, she is facilitating many of the types of concerns or transactions that the victim is interested or concerned in.

I will address some of your questions here in a second. If I may just take a few more seconds of your time by saying that the domestic violence unit provides a vital service to our community. They allow us to give the victims and their families the support they need and to change and hopefully affect their quality of life. I am here today to ask you folks for your continued support in this matter. At this time, if you folks have any questions I would be more than happy to try to address those questions directly.

Alderman Cookson

Officer Brown you mentioned during your comments that this was seed money, that you have had this grant since I believe it was '96. Is that correct?

Joseph Brown

Correct sir.

Alderman Cookson

Is the expectation that this grant may at some point no longer be available and that when you refer to it as seed money it is the expectation that the city would or may continue this program out of their own funds or the police department may support it out of their own funds versus grant?

Joseph Brown

That is always a possibility sir. In this particular case, in 1996 when we first started this particular grant program, the only people that were assigned to the domestic violence unit, and I use that term loosely, was one investigator and the civilian advocate. It has since grown to, not including the grant personnel, two additional investigators and a supervisor. In short, yes it is a seed grant, we never know when it is going to end, and if it does end unfortunately we will just have to cross that bridge when we come to it.

Right now, our statistics are good. I hate to say good, but the activity that the unit is generating supports the federal money and we are so far, as it looks, going to continue, but for an unknown specified period of time. We will continue hopefully to apply for these grants and get them awarded, but, we always run the risk of not getting it.

Alderman Cookson

Thank you. Could you again repeat for me the number of individuals that would be covered under this grant and transfer of money?

Joseph Brown

Two people, one investigator and I believe that is current Scott Hudon, and the civilian advocate, Jennifer Dickenson.

Alderman Cookson

It is approximately \$100,000. Are both of those individuals full time?

Joseph Brown

Yes sir.

Alderman Cookson

Their entire salary is covered by this grant and transfer of funds?

Joseph Brown

It is covered by the grant funds and the transfer of funds correct.

Alderman Cookson

Thank you.

Alderman Cox

In the Human Affairs Committee meeting, you mentioned that the number of cases was 1,862 in 2009. I was just wondering how that was trending over the previous couple of years.

Joseph Brown

They went down slightly over last year's numbers. I did not look back into 2007.

Alderman Cox

Thank you.

Chairman Deane

Are there any other questions?

Alderman Cookson

I had a point of order. The motion on the table is for final passage.

Chairman Deane

To recommend final passage.

Alderman Cookson

It is not for final passage. It may be semantics, but I remember at one point in time there was a practice of the committee level to make recommendations whether favorable or unfavorable. I notice that the Human Affairs Committee provided a favorable recommendation. Is that the same as what we are doing with recommending final passage?

Chairman Deane

Yes it is.

Alderman Cookson

Thank you.

Chairman Deane

The motion is to recommend final passage. Is there further discussion?

MOTION CARRIED

R-10-05

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Barbara Pressly
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane
Alderman-at-Large Mark S. Cookson
Alderman Richard P. Flynn
Alderman Arthur T. Craffey, Jr.

ESTABLISHING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE AND INVESTIGATE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S BUDGET DEFICIT AND BUDGET PROCESS AND AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF \$40,000 FOR AN INDEPENDENT FORENSIC AUDIT

Chairman Deane

This was amended by the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee on the 11th of February. Does everybody have a copy? I had Sue put a copy of the amended legislation on your desk.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO AMEND R-10-05 IN ITS ENTIRETY WITH THE COPY THAT WAS LEFT ON OUR DESKS THIS EVENING, WHICH REFLECTS THE AMENDMENTS THAT WERE MADE IN THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Flynn

I am not going to vote for this amended copy. I did vote for this actually in the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee. I really didn't have my heart in it, but at that moment Alderman Pressly convinced me to consider taking out what really is some of the hard thrust of really getting something accomplished from this committee. As it sits now, there is no money appropriated to this committee. Actually what is going to happen is they are going to have to have three votes, if they decide that makes sense to try to get some outside resources to really maybe add more to what the committee's limited strengths will be.

They will have to get 8 votes at the Board of Aldermen for this amended motion, then they will have to get 10 votes on another resolution to come up with any kind of funding because it is an unfunded line item, and then they will still have to get 4 votes of the Finance Committee to expend anything more than \$10,000.

That committee really starts off with very little than just an unwilling board to really give them anything more than just the authority to sit down and talk. I was satisfied that the Board of Education had some ideas of what they want to do differently. They want to meet more often with the Mayor I think is one of the things that came out of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee, they have some hope that maybe the new reporting system in a couple of years down the line will give them a better idea of what they have for personnel on their plate.

This amended version by itself it really seems like it is making it very very difficult for this committee to really move forward with any conviction if all they really can do is, that the path is cold, Mr. Mealey is gone, Mr. Hottel is gone, and not having any resources other than to see who is willing to come forward and spend some time listening to them not having any money to perhaps encourage the dialogue to go a little bit further and to encourage some independent view at what was going on.

This resolution really loses its teeth I think. After the meeting, I was trying to decide myself if I wanted to contact Alderman McCarthy to be on this Ad Hoc Committee. I was thinking about it that evening, and I haven't sent him a note yet. Today we had a little e-mail I think that asked if people were interested in this committee. I am not really sure how I feel about being involved with this committee or not without more resources at its command. Even though I once supported this amended version, I am not going to support it tonight. Thank you.

Alderman Pressly

Thank you Mr. Chairman. First in response to Alderman Flynn about the involvement of Alderman McCarthy, after the last meeting I spoke with him and he said he would want to be involved in this. He would be a member of the committee, and I think that is a positive thing.

At this time would you like me to sort of explain how this resolution has evolved before people have a minute to comment?

Chairman Deane

I think what we ought to do is we ought to vote on accepting the motion on the floor to amend. We can do that and then I will gladly allow you to have your say.

Alderman Pressly

Okay. The amendment is critical to the change. That is why I thought it might be helpful to speak up now.

Chairman Deane

If you are of that opinion, continue.

Alderman Pressly

First thank you very much for considering this. To give you some background, I have been watching the budget process for the school board, and I bet a lot of you have been doing the same thing, and I find it absolutely heartbreaking. I think having a really good school system is critical to attracting businesses. It is just essential to our community. What has happened has not only impacted the children primarily, but the whole school system. It also has affected every single department at City Hall since everyone has been asked to cut back.

To sort of say well that is just the way it is, these two people have left town, there is nothing we can do was sort of difficult for me to accept. I went to the woman who helps us with legislation and as we were talking this idea of a forensic audit came up, and I thought that sounds great. Since then, in order to get this started since the budget is going to be coming to this body pretty quickly, I have been in touch with quite a few people and found out that \$40,000 wouldn't even begin to cover a forensic audit of the school budget. It would be over \$100,000 to do that.

However, with everyone with whom I have spoken, they have suggested something else; they have suggested that there are resources available where corporations for much less money will come in and take a look at what happened. There are two specific companies in the State of New Hampshire, and they specialize both in municipalities and schools. The one is a rather large one, and it is called Municipal Resources, Inc. I have spoken with one of the people on the phone. They are more than willing to come in and talk to you and find out first what you want then they would make suggestions as to what the parameters of the investigation would be, and it might not be budget it might be other areas. Then they would make a proposal and offer what it would cost to do that. One of the criticisms of this legislation is it is so open, what does it mean. It seemed that would be an important step to take. Another thing, these people might come in and then say, based on what we have looked at, you do need a forensic audit. That could be one option. You might need a forensic look at something else.

The one thing as this discussion has gone on at the different meetings and with individuals, I think I am comfortable that all of the mathematical errors and the budgeting errors have been identified. There are 6 areas that have also been identified. As Alderman Flynn mentioned at one of the meetings, it is really hard to accept these errors. When you look at them they are so common sense. They are something that any fourth grader would know you didn't do or that you did do so it is hard to understand how these errors could have been made.

The other thing that I am hearing people say, they are saying it was just these two guys. Now maybe it was, maybe it wasn't. How come just two people in the school department are the only two that look at a budget? That just doesn't make sense to me. I don't know what it is. If I knew what it was we wouldn't need a resolution. Is it a communication situation? Is everybody else in the school department they trusted the powers that be so much that they didn't question or could it have been the opposite extreme that they were afraid for their jobs if they spoke up? I don't have an answer to that, but I feel that the students, the community needs something independent to look at this.

I am struck by the fact that the investigative team at the school were the same people who are part of the school system. Although that is very natural, it is all the same people looking at the same thing. I personally am a big believer in having independent/other people. Why not have new eyes, why not have a set of eyes or a team of people take a look at this and look at the best practices? It may be that the school board and maybe even City Hall is doing some things that are glaring in their inappropriateness and all of the people are so close to the issue that they don't know.

My vision would be that there would be the five people, the committee wanted it to be five, and invite these groups of which I only know two at this point and welcome any more, invite them in. There is no cost to that up front, but talk about what we have, what they have, what they think they can do to be helpful. They speak of best practices. This isn't only budgeting it has to do with personnel, it has to do with promotions, it has to do with a lot of things that affect the budget, that affect the whole tone of what is going on. I am struck by the fact that both of these people that are being blamed for the whole thing, they were all in-house hires. They all were products of the system that existed.

Now maybe that is fine and maybe in many occasions that is the best thing to do, but it seems to me given the magnitude of the errors, given the types of errors, given the impact on the community, not just the school department but every department, that it is such a black eye on this community not to know more of what happened. I was talking with someone today who lives on the Seacoast, saw it on television. We are the second largest city in the state and we have had a series of major difficulties with the people that we have hired for, in the one case, I believe it is the highest paid job in the whole city.

I have a feeling there are things that can be done and can be changed. I don't expect to find anybody did anything criminal, I don't expect to find any way to get the money back, but I do expect to find things, practices across the board covering all departments to ensure that this type of thing does not happen again. If we start out with no money I think the committee could interview these and others and say what can you do. This one team they have people that have had all of these jobs in other communities. They have superintendents; they have financial people, principals. They bring in all of the people that have held these jobs in other communities so these are not people that don't know anything about the issue. There are city people, there are people with school experience, and there are people with a full range of experience. What they find I have no idea. If I did I wouldn't be here. I have heard lots of rumors about different things that happened, but again unless you go in and see the system, the hiring system, the promotion system, the communication system, how come more people were not communicating about their own budgets?

The 6 errors identified by the in-house study, I agree with Alderman Flynn, are absolutely appalling. We can go through them tonight, but it is hard to believe that two of the highest paid employees of the city could make errors that I really do believe a fourth grader would know. You don't hire people, give them promotions, and then not put it in your budget. You don't have a deficit in an account for three years in a row and then put it in the budget for less than the deficit that is carrying over from the year before. I don't think it takes anything terribly sophisticated to know that those errors should never ever have happened just as you said Alderman Flynn the other night.

How they happened I don't know. I think a lot of it could be communication within the school district. Why weren't people talking to each other? Why weren't some of these line items that were impacted, why didn't they go to the superintendent and say gee can I see my part of the budget for next year? I have no idea what took place, but I think that we are the laughing stock of the whole state unless we get to the bottom of it and find out what was going on. If we do this, it is not going to cost \$40,000 by the

way. A forensic audit would be up in the hundreds of thousands, but just to get a capable set of independent eyes, people that have had these jobs can go in and identify some of the procedures that are not acceptable today. They might be labor practices; they might be anything at all.

The other committee not knowing what the scope would be, wanted to have a committee of five, and I would think the whole board could come with any suggestions that you have, any group, any type of a company that you know of. I have the information here of the group and they have a web site and all that. I don't think it hurts. I think if those of us who are worried about this and are fearful that it will get lost, I think once the budget comes to this committee I think some of us might be a little bit fired up again. I don't know about that, but I am very happy to step away from the committee because Alderman McCarthy was interested in serving. If he is willing to serve and even be the Chairman, I know I will bug him and I am sure the rest of you will too and say have you found some people that can look into this and find out what happened and what changes we need to make.

I did support the amendment for that reason. The first bill was very specific for \$40,000 for a forensic audit and that might not be what we need. I think we need a team of people first to take a look with professional independent eyes, they don't know the players but they know what good business practices and municipal practices are, take a look across the board and come back. It might be \$5,000 - \$10,000 to do that depending on how much we want them to look at. Have them come back and then say this is what I have found; you are lacking here, you are strong here, you need help over here, etc. Then decide do we need more money to put into something more specific. I support the amendment because I realize a forensic audit at \$40,000 is unrealistic. If we need a forensic audit we need to have some independent professionals take a look and define exactly what areas need to be studied and then come in with the proper amount.

I agree with you Alderman Flynn that it is awkward. I don't know how to overcome that to have to keep going back. I ask for any suggestions you might have. That was the reason to accept the amendment. Sometimes when you start something like this you learn along the way. That is what happened with me and that is the reason I accepted the amendment. It might mean that we may have to have more meetings and come back. First they would have to come back. If the committee of five finds a company that they feel is a perfect fit, I am sure they will get an estimate on how much it would be.

I was told by this one gentleman that it really doesn't take very long to get in there and figure out what was going on. They would probably come back with an analysis pretty quickly. First you would need some money to hire this group and then depending on what they say, there may be some other areas that we would want to investigate. I am sorry I talked so long, but thank you very much.

Chairman Deane

Are there any other comments on the amendment?

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. I guess I wasn't really sure which way I was going to go in supporting this, but my feeling is we're not here to decide what this committee is going to do, who they are going to hire, who they will bring on board. We are just establishing an Ad Hoc Committee right? That is what this legislation does.

Alderman Pressly

Yeah.

Alderman Wilshire

I wonder if a conversation has been had with the new Superintendent or the Mayor or anyone who might have feelings about this committee either way.

Alderman Pressly

Thank you very much. Mark Conrad came to the meeting and he also I think sent a letter to everyone saying that he would be very supportive. Both he and the Mayor don't like the \$40,000, and Mark Conrad said that would be 2 teachers. They are in a tough situation. I agree with that. However, I would like to remind everybody that we are talking about a \$6 million deficit. I am also struck by the fact that the previous superintendent was not found to have any difficulty, did not create a deficit, and there was a huge fuss over that.

I think we owe it to ourselves and the members of the community particularly the school children, to try to find out what is going on. I would just read the quotes in the paper; they don't want a forensic audit. I don't want a forensic audit now at this point. When I spoke with the Municipal Association they said a small community in the state recently had one and it cost them \$125,000 for a small audit. Knowing what I know now, I have backed away from wanting. The first legislation, they both have said we don't want a forensic audit, and this would not create that. They certainly reacted to the forensic audit language. I can't imagine anybody objecting to the creation of a committee.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you.

Alderman Cox

First I would like to give high marks and thanks to Superintendent Conrad who hit the ground running before his hire date actually, the team that he formed, and the way he worked through these issues. The Superintendent's office, the Board of Education, and the people responsible took this black eye, raised their hands and took ownership of it, and then did all of the due diligence too. I agree with Alderman Pressly in her remarks, to answer the questions in a satisfactory manner. Having said satisfactory, it is not pleasant. They have all said that, they all understand that, and the situation we are in right now has created a very very difficult time. It is going to be a difficult few years for the school department from here for the next three years or so.

Again, I think that the questions were answered in a very satisfactory manner to unpleasant detail. But, to keep expending both the Board of Aldermen's time and the Board of Education's and the Superintendent's office rehashing or I guess we are going to get to the proper finger pointing, if we think more than just the two people or other people should have been looking, other people should have done this should have done that, I think that Alderman Flynn brought up some great points and some great questions, I would hope the committee if they are going to look at anything, it is moving forward.

The question was brought up Superintendent Conrad what if you leave in a couple of years; you have all of the checks and balance in place, you are carefully looking at everything, you are having the proper people look at everything, what if you leave, what would happen? Those are the types of questions that I would hope are brought up. Looking back I think has been carefully gone through with a fine tooth comb. I would worry more about moving forward and making sure that everything was in place to ensure that we never fall into this type of situation again. Thank you.

Alderman Cookson

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will be brief. I am going to support the creation of this Ad Hoc Committee. Referring to the previous speaker's comments, I don't think this is looking back. One of the questions that I raised at the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee meeting was just that; what has changed since you have discovered this, what policies have changed, what procedures have changed. I think by creating this committee and potentially bring in independent eyes to look at this that are familiar with best practices, might be able to make even more enhancements to whatever it is that they see a deficit in whether it be communication, whether it be a particular type of policy, procedure, or hiring practice. The fact of the matter is there is no harm in creating this committee and letting the committee decide if we want to bring in independent eyes based on interviews with those particular organizations that have the expertise in this type of review, and then have them come back to either the full board or at committee level and say this is what we recommend; we think we should move forward with one of these companies or we don't think that it is appropriate at this time.

I think it is very important that we create the Ad Hoc Committee because we owe it to our constituents, we owe it to the city to move forward and determine whether there is something that is still missing that needs to be addressed. Thank you.

Alderman Melizzi-Golja

I will also be brief. I am going to vote in favor of this. I do hope that the outcome is that we do move forward because I think to go back and spend time and energy just looking back and maybe pointing fingers does not good in terms of moving the process and the city forward. I would hope that the committee understands that if they feel there is no need to go further, they have had their questions answered, that is where we will stay. Then if there is a need to do something else that can be brought to us. I certainly think that to put the committee together and at least have an opportunity to look at what has been put in place and how we are moving forward and if that is appropriate.

I guess my only bit of concern is that we are going to be looking at an existing system and what has been put in place to correct it knowing that within the next three years the city is really going through a major change in their systems. I think that as the committee moves forward they are going to have to have a good understanding of what is happening in the city in the next three years so we are not making recommendations that are only good for 6 months until something major changes in the city.

I would hope that this moves the city forward on this concern.

Chairman Deane

To be brief and to respond a little to your comments, this ERP system, I don't see much policy affect with software. I kind of have a question, but it is not germane to the motion that is on the floor, that I would like to ask you about policy, but I will ask you about that after we vote on the motion to amend.

The motion on the floor is to amend in its entirety with the paper copy that was left on everyone's desk this evening.

MOTION CARRIED**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE AS AMENDED**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Cox

Point of Inquiry – I just was curious, now that the \$40,000 is removed would we just be making a favorable recommendation? That is removed and it is just simply creating an Ad Hoc Committee of five members of the Board of Aldermen...

Chairman Deane

The committee's recommendation is what we are going to vote on, to recommend final passage of the resolution as amended.

Alderman Cox

Removing the dollar amount.

Chairman Deane

We did that through the amendment.

Alderman Cox

Correct, but now we are going to recommend final passage, but it is not related now is it?

Chairman Deane

I was thinking about that because of the fact the money is gone, but it was still referred to the committee and even the other day I was trying to think, there has been legislation that was sent to the Budget Committee when I chaired it that had no dollar amounts either, that had to do with policy. This is basically a policy decision that even though it is normally when there is money involved with transfers or appropriations or whatever the case may be, it is sent to the committee. We have had some other policy ordinances and resolutions sent this way too as well.

I understand what you are saying. I was thinking the same thing earlier. The motion on the floor is to recommend final passage as amended. Is there further discussion?

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Pressly

Mr. Chairman may I make a comment?

Chairman Deane

When we get into general discussion.

Alderman Pressly

Okay.

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman Pressly commented she believes Superintendent Conrad did a wonderful job of identifying the issues that need to be addressed. She commented fingers need to be pointed not at people, but at business practices, policies, and procedures. She is interested in fixing things and making the way we do things better.

Chairman Deane explained the purpose for having separate meetings was to allow for the minutes to be transcribed of the first meeting as there was a sense of urgency for the grant for the police department.

Alderman Cox remarked the Chairman had stated he did not believe software could influence policy. Chairman Deane clarified it was not that it would not influence policy, but that it would not set policy. Alderman Cox stated the software should be flexible enough to reflect policies and not the other way around.

Chairman Deane remarked he had sent along a long list of financial policies. He has asked for an overview from the Mayor, which he believes is being worked on. He stated there are pretty extensive policies and he believes there should be more oversight from the board along with reporting. He stated the GASB compliances we have to meet every year have pretty extensive reporting done by the city, and the GASB is always changing. He commented we have policies pertaining to where we hold our money, bond and bond ratings, etc., and it doesn't hurt for oversight in reporting back to the board.

Alderman Cox questioned Alderman Cookson's earlier point of order for a favorable recommendation on R-10-04. He remarked the meeting minutes of the Human Affairs Committee meeting stated the motion made was for recommendation of final passage. He questioned why the agenda indicated favorable recommendation. Chairman Deane remarked the word favorable has appeared on agendas when a committee makes a recommendation for final passage since his time on the board.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COX TO ADJOURN MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared closed at 7:48 p.m.

Alderman Richard P. Flynn
Committee Clerk